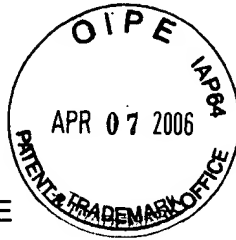


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Appln. of: Maddox et al.  
Appln. No.: 09/578,810  
Filed: May 24, 2000  
For: SEALING BLADE  
Attorney Docket No: 10970-009



Examiner: Robert B. Davis  
Art Unit: 1722

***Ex Parte Quayle Communication***

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed September 5, 2001, in which it was noted that the application was in condition for allowance except for formal matters and that prosecution on the merits was therefore closed. Applicant respectfully submits this paper comprising the following parts:

- I. **Listing of Claims**, beginning on page 2;
- II. **Remarks**, beginning on page 4.

Applicant notes that the Transmittal to which this paper is attached includes a Certificate under 37 C.F.R §1.8; and a fee statement calculating any fee(s) presently due in connection with the filing of this paper, along with an authorization to charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.